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PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a container defining an open top;
3 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
4 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first end;
5 and
6 a clamp member coupled to said container for releasably holding said flashlight such that
7 said first light source is positioned adjacent said open top;
8 a rim assembly, including:
9 a rim body removably coupled to an upper edge of said container at said open
10 top, said clamp member being attached to said rim body;
11 a lid pivotally coupled to said rim body and having a pivot point spaced apart
12 from said clamp member, said lid being movable between open and
13 closed configurations;
14 wherein said rim assembly includes:
15 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward
16 said open configuration; and
17 a latch assembly mounted to said rim body that is movable between a first
18 position for holding said lid in said closed configuration and a second

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19 position enabling said lid to move to said open configuration, said latch
20 assembly being biased toward said first position.

1 Claim 2 (canceled)

1 Claim 3 (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 2 1 wherein
2 said rim body includes a pair of nubs positioned on an exterior surface thereof and displaced
3 from said clamp member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal
4 configuration on a support surface..

1 5. (currently amended) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 2 1 wherein
2 said lid defines a plurality of spaced apart holes for establishing an air flow therethrough.

1 6. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said
2 container includes a closed bottom with a continuous side wall extending upwardly therefrom,
3 said container adapted to hold a disposable bait cup therein.

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1 7. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said
2 flashlight includes a second light source positioned in said interior space adjacent said second
3 end.

1 8. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 further comprising a
2 battery positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and electrically connected to said first
3 and second light sources.

1 9. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 8 further comprising:
2 a first switch mounted to an exterior surface of said flashlight and electrically connected to
3 said battery and to said first light source for selectively allowing current to flow from
4 said battery to said first light source; and
5 a second light switch mounted to an exterior surface of said flashlight and electrically
6 connected to said battery for selectively allowing current to flow from said battery to
7 said second light source.

1 10. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said first
2 and second light sources are light emitting diodes.

1 11. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said
2 flashlight includes a focus ring rotatably coupled to said second end thereof, said focus ring

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3 projecting light from said second light source between wide and narrow beams when said second
4 light source is energized and said focus ring is rotated respectively.

1 12. (currently amended) A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a container having a closed bottom and a continuous side wall extending upwardly
3 therefrom, an upper edge of said side wall defining an open top;
4 a rim body removably coupled to said upper edge of said side wall;
5 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
6 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first end;
7 a second light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said
8 second end;
9 a battery power source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and electrically
10 connected to said first and second light sources;
11 means for releasably coupling said flashlight to said rim body such that said first light
12 source is positioned adjacent said open top; and
13 a lid pivotally coupled to said rim body for movement between open and closed
14 configurations, said lid having a pivot point displaced from said flashlight coupling
15 means such that said first light source projects light through said open top when said
16 first light source is energized and said lid is in said open configuration.

1 13. (canceled)

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1 14. (currently amended) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim ~~13~~ 12
2 further comprising:
3 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward said open
4 configuration;
5 a latch assembly mounted to said rim body that is movable between a first position for
6 holding said lid in said closed configuration and a second position enabling said lid
7 to move to said open configuration; and
8 means for biasing said latch assembly toward said first position.

1 15. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 12 wherein said rim
2 body includes a pair of nubs positioned on an exterior surface thereof and displaced from said
3 clamp member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal configuration
4 upon a support surface.

1 16. (currently amended) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim ~~13~~ 12
2 wherein said lid defines a plurality of spaced apart holes for enabling an air flow therethrough.

1 17. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 12 wherein said
2 flashlight includes means for independently energizing said first and second light sources.

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1 18. (original) A lighted bait container apparatus, comprising:
2 a generally cylindrical container having a closed bottom with a continuous side wall
3 extending upwardly therefrom, said side wall having an upper edge defining an open
4 top;
5 a rim body removably coupled to said upper edge of said side wall;
6 a clamp member fixedly attached to said rim body;
7 a flashlight having opposed first and second ends and defining an interior space;
8 a first light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said first end;
9 a second light source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight adjacent said
10 second end;
11 a battery power source positioned in said interior space of said flashlight and electrically
12 connected to said first and second light sources;
13 wherein said clamp member is configured to releasably receive said flashlight in a friction-
14 fit relationship;
15 a lid pivotally coupled to said rim body for movement between open and closed
16 configurations, said lid having a pivot point displaced from said clamp member such
17 that said first light source projects through said open top when said first light source
18 is energized and said lid is in said open configuration;
19 a spring interconnecting said lid and said rim body for biasing said lid toward said open
20 configuration;

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21 a latch assembly mounted to said rim that is movable between a first position for holding
22 said lid in said closed configuration and a second position enabling said lid to move
23 to said open configuration; and
24 means for biasing said latch assembly toward said first position.

1 19. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 18 further comprising a
2 pair of nubs positioned on an exterior surface of said rim assembly and displaced from said
3 clamp member, whereby said container may be positioned in a generally horizontal configuration
4 on a support surface.

1 20. (original) The lighted bait container apparatus as in claim 19 wherein:
2 said lid defines a plurality of spaced apart holes for enabling an air flow therethrough; and
3 said flashlight includes a focus ring rotatably coupled to said second end thereof, an
4 interior surface of said focus ring having reflective surfaces for selectively varying
5 light emitted from said second light source between wide and narrow beams when
6 said second light source is energized and said focus ring is rotated respectively.